

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-05 IO-04 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-04 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05

OES-02 OMB-01 HEW-02 DODE-00 AID-05 L-01 /049 W

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R 061131Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7524

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 10550

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, PK

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS COMMITTEE ASSESSMENT FOR PAKISTAN

REF: STATE 227160

1. MISSION NARCOTICS COMMITTEE BELIEVES REFTEL CONTAINS GOOD, BRIEF SUMMARY NARCOTICS PROBLEM IN PAKISTAN. WE SUGGEST A FEW CHANGES.

2. IN THE FIRST PARAGRAPH THE PRODUCTION FIGURES ARE MISLEADING. COMMITTEE SUGGESTS FOLLOWING: "BASED ON ACREAGE LICENSED (3,000) AND ON AVERAGE YIELD OF TWELVE KILOS PER ACRE, AN ESTIMATED THIRTY-SIX TONS OF OPIUM WAS PRODUCED ON WSCENSED ACREAGE IN PAKISTAN LAST YEAR BUT ONLY SIX TO SEVEN TONS OF THIS WERE SUPPLIED TO THE GOVERNMENT FACTORY. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT UPWARD TO AN ADDITIONAL 200 TONS WERE ILLEGALLY PRODUCED ON UNLICENSED ACREAGE."

3. COMMITTEE DEEMS SECOND SENTENCE OF ASSESSMENT RELATING TO PRODUCTION OF ILLICIT MORPHINE BASE TO BE INACCURATE. WE HAVE NO RECENT INTELLIGENCE EFFORTS DIRECTED BY THE MISSION DEA REP HAVE DRAWN A
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COMPLETE BLANK CONCERNING MORPHINE BASE PRODUCTION

IN PAKISTAN. IT IS BELIEVED PRODUCTION OF POWDERED SMOKING OPIUM IN PAKISTAN MAY HAVE BEEN CONFUSED IN INTELLIGENCE REPORTS WITH MORPHINE BASE.

4. COMMITTEE ALSO REGARDS AS INACCURATE THE SENTENCE IN THE PARAGRAPH LABELED "PROBLEM" BEGINNING WITH THE WORDS "THE POSSIBILITY OF TRAFFICKERS" AND ENDING WITH "BAN IN TURKEY." INTERNATIONAL TRAFFICKERS WHO HAVE COME TO PAKISTAN BECAUSE OF THE BAN IN TURKEY HAVE ESTABLISHED THEIR CONTACTS. THEY HAVE FOUND A VERY FAVORABLE PRICE STRUCTURE IN PAKISTAN AND ARE AWARE OF THE LACK OF EFFECTIVE LOCAL NARCOTICS LAW ENFORCEMENT. THIS WOULD INDICATE THAT SUCH TRAFFICKERS WOULD CONTINUE TO OPERATE IN THIS REGION AND PERHAPS INCREASE THEIR OPERATIONS. IF TURKEY IS AT ALL SUCCESSFUL IN ITS "STRAW ONLY" POLICY, THE NECESSARY BASE PRODUCT FOR ILLICIT TRADE WOULD NOT BE AS READILY AVAILABLE THERE AS IN THE PAST.

5. THE FINAL SENTENCE ON "PROBLEM" IN THE FIRST SENTENCE ON "PROSPECTS" COULD APPEAR CONTRADICTORY. THE FIRST SHOULD READ: "THE POLITICAL BACKLASH AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORT TO CONTROL CULTIVATION AND PRODUCTION IN THE NWFP HAS ALSO CAUSED THE GOVERNMENT TO REEVALUATE ITS NARCOTICS PRODUCTION CONTROL PROGRAM." TO THE EXISTING FIRST SENTENCE ON "PROSPECTS" SHOULD BE ADDED: "IN ITS ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS AGAINST TRAFFICKERS." THESE CHANGES REFLECT OUR RELATIVELY NEGATIVE VIEWS ON THE GOP PRODUCTION CONTROL EFFORT AND OUR MUCH MORE OPTIMISTIC VIEW REGARDING LAW ENFORCEMENT IN AREAS OTHER THAN PRODUCTION.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NARCOTICS, DRUG TRAFFIC, INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MartinML
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ISLAMA10550
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740319-0916
From: ISLAMABAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741167/aaaacevv.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 227160
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MartinML
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 AUG 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <26 MAR 2003 by MartinML>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NARCOTICS COMMITTEE ASSESSMENT FOR PAKISTAN
TAGS: SNAR, PK
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005